

REMARKS

Upon entry of the claim amendments, Claims 1-9 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Amended Claim 1 is supported by the application as originally filed. For example, Applicants refer to page 2, lines 7-8; from the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the specification through page 5; page 6, lines 1-2; and Examples 1-5.

Claims 2-9 have been amended to render them consistent with amended Claim 1.

Claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In view of the examiner's remarks at Section No. 4 bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of Claim 10.

No new matter has been added.

I. RESPONSE TO REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Referring to Section No. 2 at page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse.

The specification as originally filed inherently supports the recitation in Claim 1 that "the adhesive is coextensive with the at least one base film." For support, Applicants direct the examiner's attention to the Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 from Dr. Issaris submitted herewith.

For the reasons stated in the Declaration, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the present §112 rejection.

II. RESPONSE TO REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Referring to Section Nos. 3 and 4 at pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

In response, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to expedite the prosecution. Amended Claim 1 is directed to an adhesive tape comprising at least one water-permeable base film. It is clear from the specification, however, that the claimed adhesive tape, as a whole, may be water-permeable depending on the properties of the chosen adhesive.

In addition, Claim 10 has been canceled.

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the present §112 rejection.

III. RESPONSE TO 35 U.S.C. § 102/ § 103 AND 35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

Referring to Section No. 6 at pages 3-4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over JP 9-321084 (“Nagai”). Also, referring to Section No. 7 at pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action, Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagai.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse each of the rejections.

Amended Claim 1 recites that only one surface of the base film has an adhesive applied thereon. Nagai does not teach or suggest this feature of Claim 1. In fact, Nagai teaches away from the feature. For instance, Applicants direct the examiner’s attention to the description at column 3, lines 39-41, under the heading “Summary of the Invention.”

Amended Claim 1 also recites that the semiconductor wafers and/or semiconductor related materials are processed by a laser beam guided by a water stream. If the cavity ratio is less than 3%, the water cannot permeate and delamination of the chip from the tape occurs. On

the other hand, a cavity ratio of more than 90% can result in a poor mechanical strength of the tape, smoothness deterioration of the tape, and poor anchoring between the base film and the adhesive. *See*, the description at the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the specification. Accordingly, the claimed cavity ratio is necessary for processing the semiconductor wafers with a water-guided laser beam.

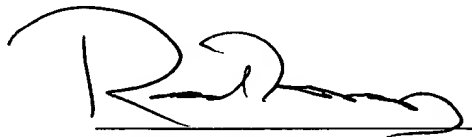
Nagai, however, does not disclose the claimed cavity ratio nor indicate the relevance thereof. Thus, Claim 1 (and all dependent claims) are neither anticipated by, nor obvious over, Nagai.

IV. CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 10, 2006